

'The session was in the main an Irish session, and though it opened well for the Government they emerged from it with little credit. Disraeli's account of it, from the same fragment as his account of the session of 1835,<sup>1</sup> and written in the same *staccato* style, is as follows: —

The Tories met Parliament in the most sanguine spirits. It was supposed that the Ministers would not have a majority. The Tories had gained in isolated elections since their resignation enough votes to destroy the majority that drove Sir E. P. from office. The Raphael Carlow business was also considered very injurious to O'Connell. To our surprise the Ministers as strong as ever. Our party became dispirited. Peel timid and always acting on the defensive. The Irish Corporations and Church Bill again approaching. The last propitiously postponed by the Ministers for reasons afterwards discovered.

L. has a conference with the Duke of Cumberland. Forms another and still more comprehensive plan for arresting the movement. Conferences with the Duke of Wellington: announces his determination to withdraw if not supported by Sir E. P. Conferences between the D. of W., Sir E. P., and Lord L. Sir E. P. agrees to accept Lord L.'s plan and pledges himself to act upon it. The total extinction<sup>2</sup> of the Irish corporations resolved upon. Strength of the Ministers in the Commons — majority of more than 80. Lords assembled at Apsley House. Each peer individually pledges himself to support Lord L.'s plans at all events. Commencement of the real session of the Lords as late as June. Extraordinary speeches and exertions of Lord L. Attempt at creating a collision. Total failure from the firmness of the Lords. Great courage and eminent services of the D. of Cumberland. Great exertions of the Press and of *The Times* in favour of Lyndhurst. The country sides with the Lords. The threatened collision laughed at. The Ministerial tactics long planned by O'Connell now developed. The Lords Bill on Irish Corporations to be accepted and the appropriation clause to be given [up?]. Consequent jealousy and dis-

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 301.

<sup>2</sup> The Government Bill proposed to substitute for the old corrupt corporations a system of elected councils; but the Lords declined to accept the constructive portion of the scheme and converted the Bill into a measure for the abolition of municipal corporations in Ireland.